Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Thursday 31 Dec 2020 until 23:59 on Friday 01 Jan 2021

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 30 Dec 2020 at 13:42

Confidence: High for the cold northerly flow at first, which veers to a milder showery easterly from Sunday, but confidence lowering for the detail of timings, intensity and snow levels on worst of the weather.

Headline for Thursday 31 Dec 2020: Sunshine and wintry showers. Significant wind chill at height.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 31 Dec 2020

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Low Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Partly cloudy (night)	Light snow showers (night)	Partly cloudy (night)	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Light snow showers	Light snow showers (night)	Light snow showers (night)
Precipitation probability							
10%	30%	20%	10%	20%	40%	30%	30%

Forecast for Thursday 31 Dec 2020

Weather: Wintry showers between clear or weak sunny spells. Best of brightness through the morning with only a few isolated light outbreaks appearing, then showers turning more frequent from mid-morning. Snow level to most levels through bulk of day, lifting 500m late evening.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 80% during the morning, becoming 65% from mid-afternoon, with bases lowering to 450-650m sporadically as showers push through.

Visibility: Good or very good lowering to a handful of kilometres in the wintry showers.

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Forecast for Thursday 31 Dec 2020

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	19/23 NW	11/14 NW	14/18 NE	19/23 NE	15/19 N	16/19 N	23/29 N	26/33 N	27/36 N
600	13/18 NW	10/13 NW	10/14 N	9/13 N	9/13 N	10/14 N	14/19 N	18/26 N	19/28 N
300	4/16 NW	4/12 NW	4/12 N	4/13 N	5/14 N	5/14 N	5/15 N	6/20 N	9/24 N
Valley	5/16 NW	4/14 N	6/14 N	5/15 N	4/12 N	6/15 N	7/19 N	11/24 N	12/25 N

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-4/-11	-4/-9	-4/-11	-5/-12	-4/-10	-4/-10	-3/-10	-2/-10	-2/-10
600	-2/-8	-2/-7	-3/-8	-4/-9	-3/-7	-2/-7	-2/-7	-1/-7	-1/-7
300	-0/-3	-1/-3	-1/-4	-2/-4	-0/-3	-0/-3	-0/-3	1/-2	1/-3
Valley	1/-1	0/-2	0/-3	0/-3	1/-1	2/-1	2/-1	3/-1	3/-1
Freezing Level*	300m	300m	100m	00m	200m	300m	400m	500m	600m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Severe wind chill over summits.

Forecast for Friday 01 Jan 2021

Weather: Sunshine and occasional shower with snow level around 500m. Outbreaks dying away from the west through the afternoon, with most dry with clear skies for the evening.

Maximum wind: North or Northwest initially 20-25mph with gusts 35mph, decreasing gradually from mid-day.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 65% becoming 90% from late afternoon, with bases lowering to 450-650m sporadically as showers push through.

Visibility: Good or very good lowering to a handful of kilometres in the wintry showers.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Minus 6 Celsius rising Plus 03 Celsius during the afternoon
At 800m: Minus 3 Celsius lowering minus 6 Celsius later
Freezing level: 600m lowering to near sea level later

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Wednesday 30 December 2020. Location: Top of Swirral Edge at 13:10. The cold settled weather continues with terrain widely frozen down to valley level today and remaining so throughout the day. Compacted snow on the paths and ice from low levels upwards, especially around drainage lines and stream crossings meant that people were slipping unexpectedly onto very hard and unforgiving ground. Microspikes are a real asset in the current conditions.The snow level remains at roughly 300m and increases a little with height. Adjacent to many of the paths it is roughly ankle-deep, with knee-deep drifts in many sheltered dips and hollows. The summit plateau is relatively well scoured, although little bare ground is exposed. It is very icy over large areas with drifted snow accumulating adjacent to some of the paths. Striding and Swirral Edge are in full winter condition and great care is required on these and any similar exposed routes where a fall could be fatal. Both were very busy today and some people were taking unnecessary risks with regard to their equipment (or lack of it) and technique (bum-sliding). This potentially puts other hill-goers at risk too. Small cornices have formed in some areas around the north and east-facing corrie rims and are comprised of soft unstable snow and should be given a wide berth. The prevailing conditions look set to continue for the time being. As such, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots, and equipment including a headtorch are all essential for anyone going out onto the fells. For those venturing into the higher fells and considering routes on steep or exposed ground, an ice axe and crampons should be carried, and as previously mentioned, microspikes will be extremely useful. Climbers, the conditions are lean with very little snow cover in and around many of the gullies and scarp slopes. Venturing into these areas risks damaging rare arctic/alpine plant species that grow here. Please avoid climbing until conditions improve. Please refer to the BMC “White Climbing Guide” for details. With Tier 4 restrictions now in place, we would like to urge all hill goers to act responsibly and well within your level of comfort and experience. Temperature: minus 4.9 C, Maximum wind speed 16.0 mph, Wind chill: minus 13.0 C, Average wind speed: 10.1 mph

Issued at: 1342 on Wed 30 Dec 2020

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